

Bureau of Land Management



Montana/Dakotas

A Report to the Public

Montana State Office



Bureau of Land Management

Surface Acres

Montana	7,969,339
North Dakota	58,837
South Dakota	274,437
TOTAL	8,302,613

Subsurface Acres

Montana	37,785,704
North Dakota	5,614,146
South Dakota	3,776,199
TOTAL	47,176,049

for breakdown by county, and other links contained in this report, go to
http://www.blm.gov/mt/st/en/info/newsroom/annual_report.html

Fish and Wildlife Habitat

- 600 species of fish and wildlife
- 3,500 acres of lakes and reservoirs
- 2,500 miles of streams
- 200,000 acres of waterfowl habitat having international importance

Threatened and Endangered Species

- 4 threatened and endangered mammals
- 3 threatened and endangered birds
- 2 threatened and endangered fish
- 1 candidate species (fish)

Special Status Species

- Mammals - List updated in 2004
- Birds - List updated in 2004
- Fish - List updated in 2004
- Plants - List updated in 2005

Wild Horses

- Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range covers 39,651 acres of BLM, Forest Service, National Park Service and private lands
- 159 adult horses and 34 foals are on the range; 95 adult horses +/- 10 percent is the appropriate management level (AML).
- 0 horses removed from the Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range
- 69 horses/burros (non-Pryor horses) adopted in 2006
- 65 compliance checks completed
- 62 animals titled

Rangeland Management

- 4,284 cattle/buffalo operators; 1,319,022 animal unit months (AUMs) authorized
- 158 horse/burro operators; 5,578 AUMs authorized
- 207 sheep/goat operators; 4,106 AUMs authorized

Wilderness

- 36 Wilderness Study Areas totaling 447,327 acres
 - 173,499 acres in 15 areas recommended for wilderness designation (about .02% of the total BLM-managed land base in Montana/Dakotas)
 - 273,828 acres in 30 study areas not recommended for wilderness designation
- Three Section 202 Wilderness Study Areas totaling 4,376 acres to be studied during the land use planning process
- One 6,347-acre designated wilderness: the Bear Trap Canyon Unit of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness (Montana's first and only designated BLM wilderness area)

Forestry

- 400,000 acres of commercial forest land
- 138,000 acres of non-commercial forest land
- 3,384,000 board feet of timber offered by timber sale contracts
- 2,314,000 board feet of timber offered by stewardship contracts
- 1,857 cords of fuel wood sold
- 563 Christmas trees sold

Forest Development

- 140 acres planted
- 329 acres of site preparation
- 883 acres of pre-commercial thinning
- 986 acres of commercial thinning

Noxious Weed Management

FY2007:

- 140,150 acres of noxious weeds treated using integrated weed control techniques including chemical, physical, and mechanical methods, as well as biological weed control agents and domestic animals (sheep or goats)
- 914,056 acres inventoried and mapped for noxious weeds
- 112,124 acres monitored for Integrated Weed Management evaluation
- Over one million biological control agents collected and distributed to 277 sites

To date:

- Biological weed control agents established on more than 200,000 acres
- 69 weed management areas
- Interagency agreements for biological control in place with Agricultural Research Service and Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service
- Cooperative agreements for biological control in place with four Montana State University researchers
- Cooperative agreements in place with 44 county weed districts
- Cooperation with and funding to Montana Education and Awareness Committee results in opportunities for weed education with hundreds of public and agency contacts
- Close work relationship with Montana Department of Agriculture, Montana Weed Control Association, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Forest Service

Report to the Public

Cultural and Paleontological Resources

- 1.3 million acres inventoried to date
- 10,775 cultural properties recorded to date

Solid Minerals

Montana

- 14 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 33,510 acres
- 32,714,034 tons of coal produced, generating \$38,723,201 in royalties

North Dakota

- 5 producing federal and Indian coal leases on 3,014 acres
- 3,330,639 tons of coal produced, generating \$865,821 in royalties

Locatable Minerals

- 2,929 new claims recorded
- 676 claims closed
- \$497,930 new claim maintenance fees received
- \$1,655,505 received for annual maintenance fees and annual assessment fees
- 1,763 claims covered by 406 small miner waivers
- 15,890 unpatented mining claims
- 55 claims relinquished
- 0 claims patented
- 219,170 active and closed unpatented mining claims on record

Fluid Minerals

Federal Oil and Gas Leases Issued in FY 2007

	<i>Competitive</i>		<i>Noncompetitive</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Montana	183	192,568	20	29,623	203	222,191
North Dakota	140	61,415	3	45	143	61,460
South Dakota	25	27,108	2	2,481	25	29,589
TOTAL	348	281,091	25	32,149	371	313,240

Federal Oil and Gas Leases in Effect as of 9/30/07

	<i>Producing</i>		<i>Non-producing</i>		<i>Total</i>	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Montana	1,447	780,009	2,795	3,514,452	4,242	4,294,461
North Dakota	642	339,668	988	515,412	1,630	855,080
South Dakota	75	34,727	94	106,898	169	141,626
TOTAL	2,164	1,154,404	3,877	4,136,762	6,041	5,291,167

Oil and Gas Lease Sales

- 6 competitive oil and gas lease sales held
- 678,141 acres in 631 parcels offered
- 285,880 acres in 351 parcels leased
- \$11,465,304 bonus bids received

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

Construction/Maintenance/Engineering

Condition Assessments performed on:

- 35 administrative sites
- 176 recreation sites
- 100 lane miles of road
- 17,500 square feet of building
- 29 miles of trail
- 40 hazard class dams
- 1 bridge

Annual Maintenance performed on:

- 125,300 square feet of administrative site buildings
- 49,300 square feet of recreation site buildings
- 964 lane miles of road
- 853 recreation site assets
- 191 administrative site assets
- 3 bridges
- 204 miles of trail

Deferred Maintenance performed on:

- 800 square feet of recreation site building
- 10,200 square feet of administrative site building
- 1 mile of trail
- 1 hazard class dam
- 2 lane miles of road
- 45 recreation site assets
- 2 administrative site assets
- 2 bridges

Newly Constructed Assets:

- 3 miles of trail
- 9 recreation site assets
- 272 range improvements
- 10,000 square feet of administrative site building
- 10 administrative site assets

Other work completed:

- 182 facilities surveyed and designed
- 4 architectural and engineering task orders issued

SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

Geographic Information Systems/Mapping Science

- Maintained digital data of various resources and land ownership for resource analysis.
- Produced detailed maps for various management planning efforts and projects.
- Provided maps and digital data to other government agencies and private entities.
- Provided visuals and analysis for public meetings and briefings.
- Provided mapping support for various programs and projects.
- 17 1:100,000 maps edited and revised for automation.
- Updated statewide grazing allotments.
- Maintained EZ Mapper and oil and gas mapping applications.

2007

- Provided training on GPS, GIS software and analysis.
- Continued deployment of a new system infrastructure for GIS serving all data and software from central repository.
- Developed and maintained oil and gas automated field map data in SDE.
- Provided support to the development of the national invasive species database.
- Provided completed oil and gas field maps on website.

Cadastral Survey

- 289 miles resurveyed
- 180 miles approved
- 800 survey monuments set
- 410 survey monuments approved
- 30 plats approved

Geographic Coordinated Data Base

- 777 townships collected
- 343 townships maintained

Volunteers and Hosted Workers

- 769 volunteers contributed 32,202 hours valued at \$604,432; the cost to MT/DKs BLM was \$54,532.
- 1 hosted worker contributed 480 hours valued at \$9,010, at no cost to MT/DKs BLM. (Hosted workers are paid by another agency while they gain work experience with the BLM.)

Fire Management

- During the 2007 fire season there were 71 wildfires on BLM lands, which burned about 11,174 acres.
- BLM took action on 227 fires; of these, 108 were on lands under BLM protection (22,421 acres) and 119 were on lands where BLM may assist through agreements (94,688 acres). Action means either initial attack resources responded or dispatch was heavily involved.
- 53 of these fires were human-caused (31,583 acres) and 174 were lightning-caused (85,526 acres).
- 72 fuels treatments were accomplished on 14,644 acres: 10,221 acres of prescribed burning; 4,223 acres of mechanical treatments; and 200 acres of chemical treatments.

Law Enforcement and Resource Protection

- Investigated incidents of destruction, vandalism, and/or theft of natural resources and government property.
- Investigated human-caused fires for both cost recovery and criminal prosecutions.
- Investigated damage of archaeological sites and removal of paleontological resources.
- Provided security on wildfires in Montana and aided in evacuations of threatened homes.
- Continued investigations into fraud related to the Oil & Gas and Hard Rock Mining programs.
- Worked collectively with other agencies to secure public lands along the northern border.
- Assisted in search and rescue operations and local law enforcement as requested.
- Assisted state wildlife agencies in preventing and detecting hunting and fishing violations.

- Augmented the field office law enforcement staffs during high-visitation periods.
- Provided special operation support to various other states.
- Conducted high-visibility patrols of the Fort Meade Recreation Area during the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.
- Provided advice and assistance to BLM offices regarding public and employee safety during increased terrorism threat levels.

Land Use Planning and Environmental Coordination

- 9 resource management plans (RMPs) cover Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota
- Dillon RMP completed in FY06 replaces the Dillon Management Framework Plan
- 6 planning efforts in progress: Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, Butte, Miles City, Malta, North & South Dakota, and Billings resource management plans
- 1 supplemental to the Montana Statewide Oil and Gas Final Environmental Impact Statement and Amendment of the Powder River and Billings Resource Management Plans

Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

- 51 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern

Lands Casework

- 155 rights-of-way and amendments issued; 38 renewed
- 8 permits/leases issued; 14 renewed
- 172 patents issued for Bureau of Indian Affairs
- 6 Forest Service exchange conveyance documents (patents/deeds) issued
- 3 Land and Water Conservation Fund acquisitions for 1,931 acres
- 3 donations of 615 acres
- 2 Disclaimers of Interest issued
- 1 homestead patent issued for 80 acres
- 1 Bureau of Reclamation withdrawal processed for 10 acres
- 1 Recreation and Public Purposes patent issued for 170 acres
- 1 Sec. 203 of FLPMA public sale patent issued for 40 acres

Hazardous Materials Management

- Completed follow-up CASHE audits (internal environmental audit program) as scheduled by the CASHE audit team. (Every office gets a follow-up on a 3-year cycle.)
- Completed cultural and bat surveys for physical safety hazard abatement (including adit and shaft closures) associated with abandoned mine lands. Closed 30 hazardous openings with backfill or bat gates as appropriate.
- Completed and presented to ARCO a claim for damages to BLM lands in the Clark Fork River Superfund site. The claim was made following the Natural Resource Damage Assessment provisions of the Superfund Act. Negotiations with ARCO to settle the claim were completed in 2007. Final Consent Decree lodged with the court by the end of 2007.

Montana/Dakotas

- Disposed of hazardous unused and waste products from the field offices and state office.
- Completed environmental site assessments for Holter Lake land exchange with PPL.
- Provided necessary hazmat training for staff statewide.

In 2007, Montana/Dakotas BLM hosted more than 3.9 million visits and collected more than \$336,948 in recreation fees. These funds are used to improve facilities and visitor services at developed recreation sites. Our top six recreational activities in 2007, listed from highest to lowest in participation, were:

- Hunting
- Camping
- Fishing
- Wildlife viewing
- Hiking/Walking/Running
- Driving for pleasure

Montana/Dakotas BLM lands provide a diversity of settings:

- 8.3 million acres of varied landscapes and opportunities
- 2,500 miles of streams
- 60,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs
- 36 Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) and 3 Section 202 WSA sites
- 32 boating access sites
- 19 Watchable Wildlife sites
- 5 Outstanding Natural Areas
- 5 Backcountry Byways (185 miles)
- 100+ miles of groomed snowmobile/cross country ski trails
- 400+ family camping units
- 15 day-use sites and 24 developed recreation sites
- 400+ undeveloped recreation sites
- 27 miles of mountain bike trails in the Blackfoot River Corridor
- Cabin rentals in the Axolotl Lakes and Garnet Ghost Town areas

National Monuments

- Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument (374,976 acres)
- Pompeys Pillar National Monument (51 acres)

National Trails

- 310 miles of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
- 13 miles of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail
- 10 miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail
- 30 miles of the Garnet Winter Trail
- 9 miles of the Bear Trap Canyon Recreation Trail
- 12 miles of the Centennial Trail (South Dakota)

National Historic Landmarks

- Pompeys Pillar

Of Special Interest, our Public Lands Offer:

- Upper Missouri National Wild and Scenic River (149 miles)
- Bear Trap Canyon Wilderness (6,347 acres)
- Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range (about 38,000 acres)
- Two interpretive/educational centers and many interpretive wayside exhibits

Recreational Achievements and Events in 2007

- Hundreds of volunteers participated in several National Public Lands Day projects held across Montana and the Dakotas, working on projects such as trail construction, fence removal, historic structure repair, and recreation site cleanup.
- The Dillon Field Office installed route signs on 80 percent of the 1,300 roads designated in the Dillon Resource Management Plan/Travel Plan.
- The Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument Interpretative Center in Fort Benton, Mont., opened to the public.
- The Butte Field Office completed projects that were developed in four different travel management plans, including installing route signs and building connecting trails and a trail head parking lot.
- The Dillon Field Office realigned portions of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail with assistance from the Montana Conservation Corps.
- Volunteers installed trail signs and a kiosk on the Pryor Mountain National Wild Horse Range.
- Eight interpretive signs were placed near historical points along the Fort Meade Backcountry Byway.
- The Dillon Field Office enacted a partnership with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to assist with management of recreation permits on the Madison River.
- The Miles City Field Office partnered with Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks to install entrance signs for the Knowlton Travel Management Area. Additionally, they installed a new water crossing and replaced signs in the Hay Draw Travel Management area to assist hunters.
- The Missoula Field Office completed a major fuel reduction project at the historic mining town of Garnet. This interpretive site receives more than 32,000 visitors annually and benefits from a strong partnership with the Garnet Preservation Association.
- The North Dakota Field Office purchased 12 interpretive signs to be placed on the Bur Oak Nature Trail at Schnell Recreation Area near Dickinson.
- The Butte Field Office opened the White Sandy Recreation Site for campers, providing 30 additional developed campsites in the popular Chain of Lakes area near Helena.
- Northern Rocky Mountain Grotto volunteers continue to assist the Lewistown Field Office by monitoring resource use in Crystal Cave.
- The BLM hosted eight fishing/boating events for local communities, including two in North Dakota and South Dakota regions managed by the BLM. More than 1,110 students, volunteers, teachers, community partners and public participants took part. These events were made possible with Challenge Cost Share grants and community partnership support.
- The BLM signed partnership agreements throughout the state for recreation management of historical/cultural areas, rivers, and public access to isolated land parcels. These new partners with BLM include Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and the River and Plains Society in Fort Benton.
- The Lewistown Field Office completed the seven-mile Limekiln Canyon Loop Trail with support from the Central Mountain Fire Zone and volunteers.

Personnel

- 645 total employees: 483 permanent full-time; 85 temporary; 66 career seasonal/part-time; and 11 SCEP (student career educational program)

SALARIES BY COMMUNITY

Aberdeen, South Dakota	\$100,736
Ashland, Montana	\$266,127
Belle Fourche, South Dakota	\$716,260
Billings, Montana	\$11,678,639
Bridger, Montana	\$101,581
Butte, Montana	\$2,666,733
Camp Crook, South Dakota	\$74,406
Dickinson, North Dakota	\$1,515,773
Dillon, Montana	\$1,989,501
Ekalaka, Montana	\$87,231
Ennis, Montana	\$87,065
Fort Benton, Montana	\$261,063
Fort Meade, South Dakota	\$223,636
Glasgow, Montana	\$757,180
Great Falls, Montana	\$603,039
Havre, Montana	\$825,555
Helena, Montana	\$144,741
Jordan, Montana	\$93,553
Lewistown, Montana	\$3,626,425
Malta, Montana	\$837,560
Miles City, Montana	\$4,600,455
Missoula, Montana	\$2,203,235
Pompeys Pillar, Montana	\$132,546
Wolf Creek, Montana	\$120,296
Zortman, Montana	\$203,270
Total	\$31,861,224
Total Budget	\$72,816,281

MONTANA PILT

<i>Local Unit Of Government</i>	<i>Total Paid In FY07</i>	<i>Local Unit Of Government</i>	<i>Total Paid In FY07</i>
Anaconda-Deer Lodge	\$287,865	McCone	171,259
Beaverhead	558,234	Meagher	124,380
Big Horn	8,311	Mineral	128,839
Blaine	339,023	Missoula	694,021
Broadwater	368,070	Musselshell	109,569
Butte-Silver Bow	308,090	Park	846,375
Carbon	511,442	Petroleum	45,499
Carter	119,270	Phillips	276,227
Cascade	287,829	Pondera	132,098
Chouteau	191,935	Powder River	119,312
Custer	470,002	Powell	420,207
Dawson	12,830	Prairie	86,149
Fallon	23,248	Ravalli	1,469,669
Fergus	667,059	Richland	10,905
Flathead	1,354,704	Roosevelt	859
Gallatin	961,356	Rosebud	65,367
Garfield	116,070	Sanders	183,489
Glacier	572,449	Sheridan	357
Golden Valley	42,619	Stillwater	256,460
Granite	141,198	Sweet Grass	331,860
Hill	26,266	Teton	380,129
Jefferson	635,312	Toole	35,361
Judith Basin	176,650	Treasure	150
Lake	167,102	Valley	430,566
Lewis and Clark	1,396,645	Wheatland	87,427
Liberty	30,950	Wibaux	5,415
Lincoln	350,628	Yellowstone	108,443
Madison	540,907	TOTAL	\$17,186,456

NORTH DAKOTA PILT

<i>Local Unit Of Government</i>	<i>Total Paid In FY07</i>	<i>Local Unit Of Government</i>	<i>Total Paid In FY07</i>
Barnes	\$8,938	McLean	223,455
Benson	4,727	Mercer	10,575
Billings	63,081	Morton	19,018
Bottineau	137	Mountrail	84,088
Bowman	7,937	Pierce	4,938
Burke	202	Ramsey	522
Burleigh	20,580	Ransom	52,699
Cavalier	1,955	Renville	344
Dickey	916	Richland	34,740
Divide	1,958	Rolette	153
Dunn	14,917	Sargent	2,448
Eddy	847	Sheridan	42,060
Emmons	45,461	Sioux	44,055
Golden Valley	17,151	Slope	26,856
Grand Forks	1,697	Stark	894
Grant	12,479	Steele	196
Griggs	2,408	Stutsman	13,074
Kidder	3,117	Walsh	669
Logan	1,205	Ward	448
McHenry	3,137	Wells	12,044
McIntosh	659	Williams	39,870
McKenzie	102,525	TOTAL	\$929,180

SOUTH DAKOTA PILT

<i>Local Unit Of Government</i>	<i>Total Paid In FY06</i>	<i>Local Unit Of Government</i>	<i>Total Paid In FY06</i>
Beadle	\$423	Jackson	153,573
Bon Homme	22,830	Jones	28,219
Brown	0	Lawrence	56,002
Brule	17,191	Lyman	139,843
Buffalo	17,151	McPherson	231
Butte	231,320	Meade	59,517
Campbell	31,506	Pennington	468,478
Charles Mix	37,305	Perkins	158,018
Clark	138	Potter	22,999
Corson	94,928	Roberts	789
Custer	202,496	Shannon	2,853
Day	302	Spink	1,065
Dewey	113,622	Stanley	156,815
Fall River	348,912	Sully	68,757
Gregory	38,510	Tripp	231
Haakon	6,736	Walworth	28,219
Hand	115	Yankton	3,482
Harding	113,786	Ziebach	2,527
Hughes	53,026	TOTAL	\$2,684,423
Hyde	2,508		

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Montana/Dakotas

*Caring for Our Natural Resources
and
Managing Lands for Public Needs*



AN ANNUAL REPORT



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